

REMARKS

The Office Action states that claims 1-16 (Group I) are drawn to a method for making a semiconductor device, classified in class 438, subclass 197, and that claims 17-20 (Group II) are drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 327 (Office Action, pg. 2). The Office Action requires election of either Group I or Group II for examination. The requirement for election is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

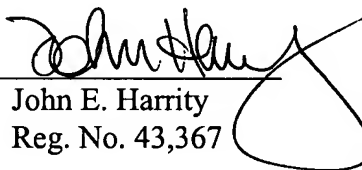
In order for a restriction to be proper, the inventions must be independent and there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not made (MPEP § 803). Applicants respectfully submit that search and examination of all the pending claims can be made without serious burden. Applicants base this on the fact that the method and system claims are clearly related. Therefore, reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement and examination of pending claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner, after considering the discussion above, still believes that election to a single group of claims is required, Applicants provisionally elect Group I (claims 1-16) with traverse.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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